



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



January 2022

President's Message

Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

Welcome to a new year! We are entering this year without Covid 19 hovering over us and all we do. While still with us, we are able to live more 'normal' lives and share time with our fellow hams in person. During the year we have many opportunities to share our hobby with other hams, prospective hams and the public. To take full advantage of those opportunities, we need an active membership. That includes bringing in new members. Every member is an ambassador and part of the membership committee.

We are also in the time of renewal, so get your renewal in as soon as possible so Elbert doesn't harass you to get it done. :-) Seriously, renew quickly.

Operating day, on the last Sat of each month, is a good way to learn new skills. Or polish existing ones. But, we need to know what you want to learn or work on. Let us know what you want to work on so we can help you in the best way possible. There will be a few months where that day falls on a holiday or contest/event weekend, so be prepared to participate in that event!

If you have a program you'd like to present, let us know. It doesn't have to be about operating a radio. We've had presentations about tracking balloons and ham shacks, and this month Hayden, N2HAY, will be showing us how to convert old tech into useful tools today. I'm looking forward to that.

If you have an interest in contesting, we have an active group within the club who can help get you started. You can find future contests on the ARRL site and they are discussed regularly on the weekly net and at club meetings. If there is one that interests you, let us know.

Elsewhere in the Oracle is an article that contains information I received in an email from John Bee, N1GNV, at Quicksilver Radio Products (www.qsradio.com). I found it interesting and inspiring. Read it and pick one (or 2 or 3 :-) things to work on this year. Most of all, let's have a fun year!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 18

***** Green Clover Hall *****

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting & Eating

Program: Reviving Old Tech

Haden Kaufman, N2HAY

SSRC Board of Directors first Tuesday, 7:00 PM,
Green Clover Hall

Upcoming Events

January 29-30 — Winter Field Day

February 11-13 — HamCation

March 8 — VE Testing

March 26 — Marion County Day

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater

Mondays at 7:30 PM

146.610, PL 123

Membership/Hamfest

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Hamfest & Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP:

It is that time again...membership renewal! Dues are, well, due, by January 31, so go to the club website, <https://k4gso.us> and click on the Membership and Information Tab. If any of your information has changed since last year – new address, email, license class, expiration date, etc. then go to the **Apply For Membership** drop down page and update your information. This page is also used for new membership applications. Alternatively, if there are no changes, go to the **Fast Renewal** drop down page. Please note that on both pages you will need to enter your method of dues payment. You have several choices – via PayPal (+ \$2 upcharge), check or cash. If paying by cash or check, please give it the Treasurer, Tim Trombley, K8TAT, at either the board meeting or the general meeting.

But wait...you're not done yet...there's more! At the bottom of both pages, after you have entered your information, you will need to click on the Blue Button. It is easy to miss, so here is what it looks like.



Once done, the Webpage should send me an email that a membership status has been updated.

Our webmasters have been working to simplify this process and make it easy and less onerous, so many thanks to them for their efforts.

We ended 2021 with 87 members. Sadly, we had three members go SK during the year – Ed Biedrecki, Jim Penna, and Ed Eades. Our goal for 2022 is 100, which is a big increase, but we can do it.

First, we are asking older members to adopt a new member, especially those recently licensed. This is important. We can all remember the challenge of trying to set up a station, getting on the air, working an event, or making a resonant antenna. That's just the simple stuff! It can be overwhelming. New members and amateurs – please don't be shy about asking for help. We may not know what you are struggling with unless you tell us.

Second, get involved in club activities and events. Active groups get noticed. Despite the struggles over the last two years, we have managed to have Winter Field Day, POTA

activations, Field Day, Outdoor Expo, Hamfest and operating days. Opportunities abound for your participation.

MARION COUNTY DAY 2022:

Florida in general and Marion County, in particular, are open for business. Once again, our county will be having a community-wide celebration on Saturday, March 26 at the McPherson Governmental Complex. Due to the pandemic, last year's event was canceled. There will be lots of vendors, displays, other participants, and hopefully large crowds to enjoy an early spring day outside. SSRC plans to set up a couple of stations to demonstrate our skills and portable emergency operations to the public. Mark your calendars to attend and participate in this club event. More details to follow at club meetings and in The Oracle.

HAMFEST 2022:

Save the date – December 2nd for setup and December 3rd for Hamfest. Location will again be at First Christian Church, Ocala. Stay tuned to The Oracle and club meetings for more details as we get nearer to the event.

VE Update

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV

SSRC VP/Test Liaison

VE Update. Although we didn't have anyone sign up to test, we had two walk-ins. Each of them passed a test (1 new Tech & 1 new General). Call signs to follow.

ARES Update

Hayden Kaufman, EC, Marion County

Net Control Training 2/5 @ GCH 9am-12pm - Register at aresmcf.org

PLAN AHEAD! 10/1 will be the NFL Simulated Emergency Test. Details to follow.

AEC's Wanted! If you have any sort of interest in serving as leadership for ARES, with or without experience, please contact Hayden @ 352.300.7532 no later than February 5th. If you are a current AEC, please indicate your interest in remaining in your position ASAP.

Positions available:

AEC/Training, AEC/Net Manager, AEC/Transportation, AEC/Resources, AEC/Administration, AEC/The Villages.

EC Hayden Kaufman N2HAY

AEC (acting) Carl Berry KC5CMX

AEC (acting) Ron Viola KS4SW

AEC (acting) Roger Staley K4ZFW

AEC (acting) Leon Jarczyszyn K8ZAG

New Year Resolutions

John Bee, N1GNV, Quicksilver Radio Products, www.qsradio.com

SSRC President Bill, KW5BG says: *The following was written by John Bee at Quicksilver Products and reprinted with permission. There is something in here for everyone, so find which of these you want to work on this year.*

As 2021 slides into 2022, it's natural to think about plans for the coming year. And I'd like to ask a favor of you -- please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are some ideas to consider:

- If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. [Click here to see them](#)
- Try something. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. Not long ago, no one had heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How low can you go? There's some interesting action on our newest bands at 630 and 2200 Meters. At (literally) the other end of the spectrum, we have Ham Bands well into the GHz region. Microwaves are useful for more than making popcorn! Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and try something different!
- Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World? One of my Dad's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!
- Build something. Too many years ago, as I newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. OK, not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start you'll be hooked.
- Learn something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.
- Teach something. You know how to do things others don't but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?
- Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. Online meetings mean you can do it right from home, no need to travel! A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.

- Get involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you need help finding a club, [look here](#). If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. Check out the [POTA \(Parks On The Air\) Web site](#) for even more fun. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)
- Stay positive, ignore the negative. Don't listen to the cranky old farts who insist that "Ham Radio is dying". Or better yet, [point them here](#) where they'll find that the number of licensees is at an all-time high. Participation in contests remains strong, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Manufacturers continue to introduce new models that we could barely dream of just a few years ago. Hamfests that are well-organized and well-run are thriving again. Ham Radio has been evolving for over a century now, and it continues to do so. The Magic of Radio never goes away.

Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2022!

Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and New Year.



Woody <woody@w3hii.com>
To: n4gl.marty@gmail.com

Thu, Dec 30, 2021 at 1:24 PM



Dear Harold W. Wood,

This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, **American Radio Relay League**, in the amount of **\$2,579.12** as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected this charity.

Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, everyday purchases have generated over **\$346 million** in donations to charities worldwide so far.

AmazonSmile's impact:

- **\$56,872.38** to American Radio Relay League*
- **Over \$306 million** to US charities
- **Over \$346 million** to charities worldwide

To track donations or change your charity, simply visit [Your AmazonSmile Impact](#) page.

W3HII Sets an Example

Woody, W3HII, reminds us that there are many ways we can support the hobby.

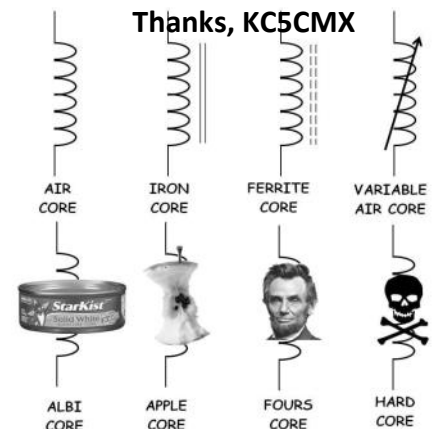
Go to smile.amazon.com

for more information.

Thanks, Woody!

TYPES OF INDUCTORS

Thanks, KC5CMX



(SK) Ham Equipment for Sale

Darrell Franchuk, KG4CCB

Contact Roy Stephens KJ4JDX@centurylink.net
or 352-817-8041

Kenwood TS 2000 / HF-VHF-UHF

Icom IC 706 / HF-VHF-UHF

Icom IC 2200H / 2 meter

Yaesu FT 1900 / 2 meter

Kenwood TM 2550A / 2 meter

Astron 35-amp power supply

Tripp Lite 25-amp power supply (for parts or repair)

Samlex SEC-1235M 30-amp switching power supply

LDG KT100 Auto tuner

LDG AT100 auto tuner

LDG Z-11 Pro Tuner

LDG TW-1 160-6 talking watt meter

Wilson 1000 mag mount / 10 meter

Wilson 5000 mag mount / 10 meter

40-meter ham stick

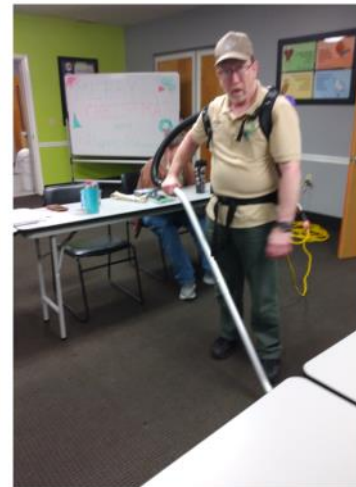
Icom SM8 microphone

Icom SM30 microphone

All in the Family (Burgess)



Club member **Allan Burgess, KN4NSA**, shows off his new tee shirt; a gift from family in Maine.



Club VP **Jim Burgess, KN4MIV**, shows off his custodial skills after the SSRC Christmas Party!

ARRL Membership Forum at HamCation

Join SE Division Director, Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Director -- Southeastern Division Panelists: ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and others ARRL welcomes all members and friends to this 2022 ARRL National Convention, hosted by Orlando HamCation®. At this session, you'll hear from ARRL representatives on key areas of membership interest.

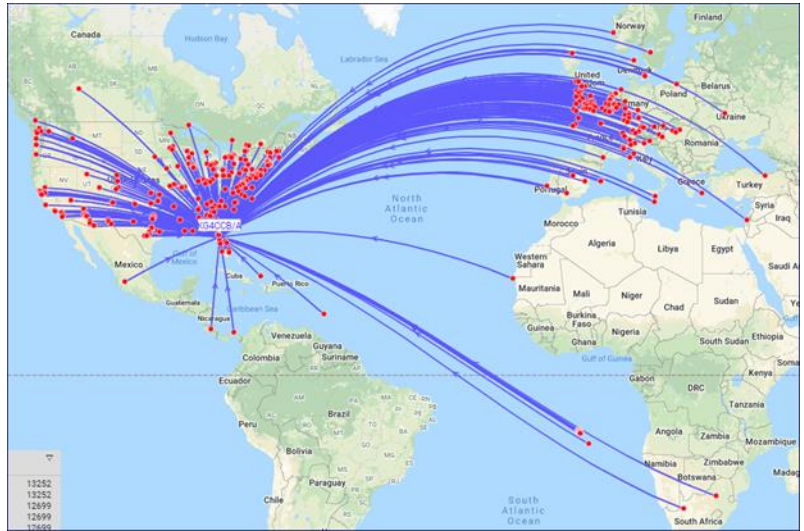
Saturday, February 12 at 3:15, CSII



ANOTHER WSPR ADVENTURE

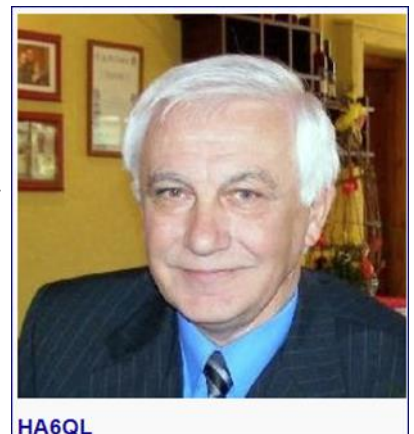
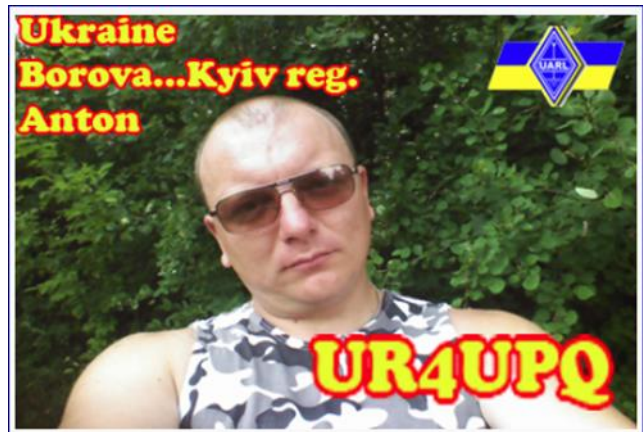
Darrell Franchuk / KG4CCB

Some of you may be thinking, "This guy needs to get a life! Another WSPR Adventure? Really?" None the less ... on December 27 I decided to run another WSPR monitoring session using the SDR Play / SDR Uno software / 14AVQ vertical antenna. The waterfall was showing a lot more activity on 40m than 20m at the time, so I chose to go with 40m. Well, during the ensuing 24 hours I received a record number (for me) of transmissions. Of the 9,821 transmissions received (409/hour), the vast majority were from North America; but included transmissions from 107 locations in Europe (east and west), Scandinavia, and the Middle East. In addition, transmissions were also from 9 locations in Mauritania, S Africa, and Central America. Transmitter power was predominantly between 200-milliwatts and 5-watts. A limited number of stations were running 10-watts or 20-watts, which many WSPR practitioners consider to be excessive. I generally run 200-milliwatts with my WSPRLite Flexi or 5-watts with my IC-7300. I have had surprising success with 2-milliwatts. The map below depicts the locations of transmitting stations during this period.



After noting the greater than usual number of stations in the eastern Europe area, I decided to take a closer look at the transmitting stations. The first one that caught my eye was Ukraine, in part because my dad was born near Kiev in 1907. Then I investigated a station in Hungary. It was then the idea of this article bubbled up due to the contrast I observed. Anton operates UR4UPQ in the Kyiv region of Ukraine and Ferenc operates HA6QL in Hungary. The diversity of hams! Neither QRZ webpage had an informative bio, which was much of what I was looking for. By the way, I recommend the movie, "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom" about the 2013/2014 uprising there. After seeing the movie, my son said he was proud of his Ukraine heritage.

Next, I decided to look at Israel, 4Z4SI, which is the headquarters station of the Israel Amateur Radio Club. The callsign is also used by a WSPR beacon operating 24/7 from the Club location. The beacon transmits 200mw to a Hustler 6-BTV antenna. The other Israeli ham, Earl Rubin, 4Z4TJ operates a 200mw Softrock+Mobo HB SDR transceiver. He also runs a solar powered QRP Labs U3S at 500mw on 30m for WSPR into a dipole at 15-ft high.



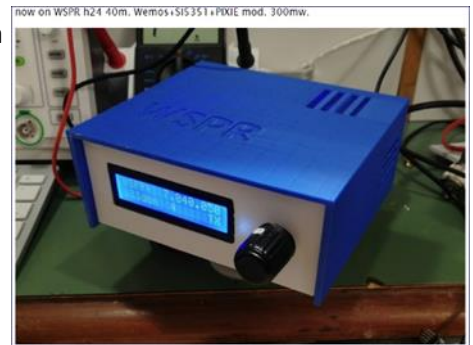
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Johannes, 5T5PA, is located on the west coast of northern Africa, in Mauritania. He is an energetic DXer involved in Islands on the Air (IOTA) activities. His secondary QRZ webpage, 5T5PA/P has narrative and photos of activities on Arguin Island for the IOTA DXpedition AF-050 during October 2021. The photo below shows the just delivered ham gear on the beach.



Next, I investigated Salvatore, IT9GSH, located in southern Italy. He is using a homebrew standalone transmitter based on a LOLIN (formerly WeMos) D1 board. I am not familiar with these mini projects, but I suspect at least a few here are (Bert perhaps?). His station also includes a Yaesu FT-450D and a homebrew 50mhz J-Pole.

A station I frequently receive is DP0POL, which is the German research vessel, Polarstern. I have also received, or been received by, DP0GVN, in the past. Information about the vessel and the site is provided on the DL5EBE qrz.com webpage. I commonly, as in this case, will receive successive transmission spots as the vessel travels the ocean.



Continued on next page....

As I continued to investigate international locations, I looked at HP1GDP which is Grupo Digital C4FM Panama. As their qrz.com webpage and their main website are in Spanish (Portuguese?), I was unable to learn much about the organization. I didn't find a "Translate to English" button. They do have a WSPR sub-page which references their participation in the International WSPR Beacon Project, HB9VQQ. I was able to pick out their use of a vertical antenna and 200mw operating power.

Numerous European call signs did not produce a listed station, or the qrz.com webpage had no information to speak of.

Finally, I decided to look at US or Canadian locations and settled on VE3SWS in Ontario, Canada. Jay uses a QRP Labs Ultimate 3s transmitter on 80m with 200mw into a 400-ft doublet antenna (Transmitter #1) and a Raspberry Pi with a QRP Labs low pass filter to transmit <10mw in the 40m band into a 160m full wave loop antenna (Transmitter #2). I didn't know a Pi could be used to transmit. But apparently this has been figured out by ham creativity ... by or for youngsters no less!

https://www.ham-yota.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WSPR_YOTA2016.pdf



Those are just a few of the numerous stations transmitting WSPR signals on 40 meters during the 24-hour period I was monitoring. During these sessions I usually find some interesting stations or activities. And pretty much always I learn something new. So much to learn, so little time.

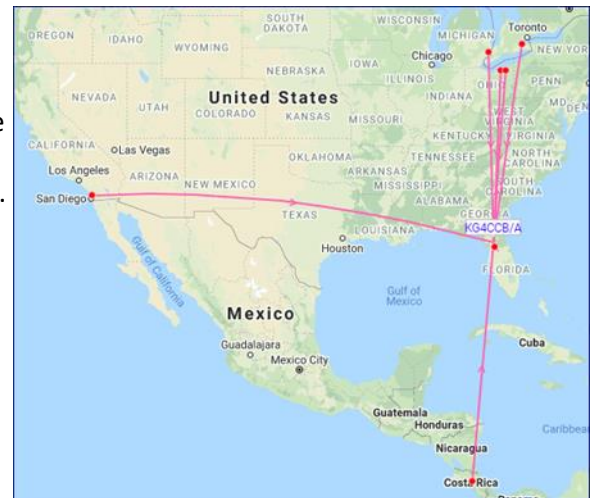
For contrast's sake I decided to do run on 20m. During the subsequent 24-hour period 3508 transmissions were received which included 41 locations in Europe and 15 in various other locations such as the Canary Islands, S Africa, the Caribbean, Antarctica, and Australia. When looking at a few stations, I discovered Ian, VK3MO, in Australia has quite an antenna. A 200-ft rotating tower with four 20m monoband antennas (view on qrz.com webpage). Wow.

Next, I did a session on 15 meters which was much less fruitful. During the 24-hour monitoring period I received only 107 transmissions, predominantly from the U.S. and Canada besides Costa Rica and Panama. The Canadian station, VE7CA has an interesting dual station shack. One station is vintage, and one is contemporary. The vintage station contains a Hammarlund HQ-120 receiver, a Viking Ranger, plus Drake Twins R-4C and T-4XC. Very nice. Marcus' contemporary equipment includes a TenTec Omni VI, an Ameritron linear, and a homebrew 160-6 meter 150-watt transceiver which is featured in March 2006 QST. Additional information is available at <http://ve7ca.net>

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Ten meters was next. The transmission count was, again, lower at 48 (2/hr) but an interesting station was received, W8EDU which is the club station of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. The qrz.com webpage contains a link to the club website which, among other things, has a list of W8EDU-Supported Senior Projects, Fall 2021. The eight listed projects include a Low-Cost Hula Hoop Mag Loop Antenna and a Balloonsat Comm Platform. Another interesting feature of this monitoring session is the pattern of station locations which are illustrated by the map snapshot. My receiving antenna is a vertical mounted at grade with 6 radials (2 for each of 3 bands) which are arranged in a semi-circle at the north side of my driveway so that they are on the north side of the antenna. I would not think this is a case of directionality but rather just coincidental I suppose but interesting, nonetheless.



Here is a recap of WSPR activity monitored during the consecutive 24-hour periods:

Band	Antenna	No. Spots	Spots/hr.	Europe	Other	Most distant
40	14AVQ	9821	409	107	9	13252
20		3508	146	41	15	15632
15		107	4	0	2	4077
10		48	2	0	0	3313
40	Dipole	2107	89	2	5	12699
20		1178	49	4	6	15632
10		9	0.4	0	1	7399

NOTE: "Other" means besides the U.S. and Canada

Out of curiosity, I ran another session on 40-meters with the 14AVQ vertical on 1/8/2022. It was not nearly as productive, resulting in only 2911 transmissions received including 21 in Europe and 7 Other with Most Distant at 18070 km. Propagation must have been hot on December 27 when 9,821 transmissions were received.

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SSRC Members

10% OFF

DINO BYTES

Computer Repair (PC, Mac & Chrome)
Data Recovery and Device Security
VHS Conversion & Custom PC Building

SSRC Classified Ads

This month we are experimenting with a classified ad section. The SSRC Board of Directors has agreed to allow business advertising in The Oracle. If you have a business service and want to place an ad in this section, contact Marty Brown, n4gl.marty@gmail.com.

At this time we are not charging for advertising space, however the board may approve fees in the future.

This section is not intended for radio equipment. Those items can be listed on the website at no charge <https://k4gso.us/traders/>

2022 SSRC Officers

President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG
Vice President - Jim Burgess, KN4MIV
Secretary - Gray Moffett, KC3DWY
Treasurer - Tim Trombley, K8TAT
Past President - Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Directors:

Mike Condon - W9MNC
Wayne Brown - N4FP
Hayden Kaufman - N2HAY

Club Minutes and Financial Reports

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